

## Community exercises force protection

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Baumholder recently raised its security posture all the way from Bravo to Delta. Every vehicle entering the post was thoroughly checked, personal credentials and vehicle registrations were closely scrutinized and roving patrols were deployed throughout the facility. A heightened sense of security hung in the air like a thick mist.

No, Baumholder was not under siege. What was transpiring was Baumholder's first force protection exercise involving ground troops.

"Back during Desert Storm and Desert Shield Baumholder had an actual Charlie defense posture. This is the first time since then that we have exercised that posture," said

Bianca Bowen, chief, security division.

Soldiers were tasked from specific units in Baumholder to assist with things like vehicle searches, roving patrols, and other security measures in accordance with higher headquarters directives, she explained.

Although motorists did experience some delays when entering the post at the time the exercise was at its highest posture, the exercise was planned and coordinated so that community members would be minimally inconvenienced.

"The intent of the exercise," explained Bowen, "Was to test and validate the 222nd Base Support Battalion's anti terrorism and force protection plan as well as the readiness of the force providers." Soldiers and other personnel from Task

Force Baumholder, Division Artillery, 90th Personnel Service Battalion, 1-94th Field Artillery, Ponds contract security service, the military police, fire department and various other response teams from throughout the post and the 222nd BSB made this first-of-its-kind exercise possible.

In order to beef up the security, soldiers were tasked from specific units in Baumholder to assist with things like vehicle searches, roving patrols, and other security measures in accordance with higher headquarters directives, according to Bowen.

The exercise scenario included all aspects leading from a normal defense posture on up through Bravo and Charlie and culminating with a Delta defense posture. To prepare for the exercise, several of

the key players participated in a computer simulated scenario at Baumholder's training facility several weeks prior to actually putting troops on the ground and conducting the exercise.

"Several lessons were learned and may be applied to future exercise scenarios," according to Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 222nd BSB public affairs officer and a key player in the exercise.

U.S. personnel were not alone in this exercise. Since the scenario required responses to things like mass casualty incidents, fires and explosions, German emergency response personnel from the local community were invited to participate in the various scenarios that unfolded throughout the two days.

"This is only the beginning," said Bowen. "Baumholder will see

two to three exercises like this per year in order to maintain its readiness and response capabilities at their peak," she said. The next such exercise is tentatively scheduled for July.

Bowen was quick to point out that regardless if Baumholder has an exercise or not, force protection is everyone's responsibility. "We rely heavily upon the security awareness and vigilant eyes of each member of the community.

So if you see of notice suspicious individuals or activities, like unauthorized photography, video taping, or even someone taking notes or making sketches of military facilities, contact the military police," said Bowen.

The military police desk sergeant may be reached at mil 485-7546/7547, or civ 06783-6-7546/7547.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

### City takes control

Volmar Pees, Baumholder district mayor, accepts a symbolic key for the sewage treatment plant from Herr Niebelschütz, chief of the federal assets office, located in Trier. Representing the U.S. military Community is Capt. Donald J. St. Onge, 222nd Base Support Battalion, Headquarters, Headquarters Company commander. The U.S. military returned control of the facility to the city, who will operate the plant and service the sewage system on Smith Barracks. The city will also renovate the sewage treatment plant and plans are already in the works for a brand new DM 10 million facility that will service both communities. After returning control of the plant to the city, 222nd Base Support Battalion representatives, Baumholder city officials and representatives from the federal assets office toured the facility and DPW officials explained the functions of the plant to city and asset office officials. The federal assets office in Trier oversees the transfer of land and facilities in this region.

## Education Notes

Active duty service members may be eligible to use both Army Tuition Assistance and their Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits to pay for college tuition at the same time. Talk to an education counselor today to learn more about qualifying. Call Bill Badger at mil 485-6487 for more information.

It is now possible for active duty members with VEAP education benefits to convert to the more lucra-

tive Montgomery G.I. Bill. Stop by the Baumholder Army Education Center today to confirm eligibility. For more information, call Bill Badger at mil 485-6487.

The Baumholder Army Education Center offers the Law School Admissions Test June 11. The deadline for registration is April 5. Call Julie Jason at mil 485-6308 for more information.

Persons wishing to use the com-

puters located in the Army Learning Center or the University of Maryland's Computer Lab are reminded they must take and pass the USAREUR Computer Users Test. For more information call Bill Badger at mil 485-6487.

Now is the time to apply for spouse tuition assistance for the semester that begins in June. Stop by the Baumholder Army Education Center for details.





Contributed photo

Some of the soldiers from the three HEMMT crews that volunteered to help drive the donations to Ramstein Air Base secure all the pallets before heading to Ramstein where the clothing was transported to Kosovo. In Kosovo, Task Force Falcon soldiers took charge and distributed the clothing to the many in need of clothing and shoes.

## Clothing drive demonstrates generosity

*“People came out to help other people in need”*

**By Melody Joy Fields**  
Baumholder Community Service  
Club board member

While the 1st Armored Division troops from the Baumholder community have been deployed to Kosovo and Macedonia, the rear detachments, family members and civilians have been doing their best to support the mission of Task Force Falcon. Sometimes, the small things individuals do to make an impact add up.

After hearing from soldiers in the field of crippling poverty, threadbare clothes, and barefoot children in the snow, several units and organizations started collecting clothes and shoes to send to

families in Kosovo.

One such drive, sponsored by the Baumholder Community Service Club, ran throughout the month of February. With no publicity and no promise of recognition, members of the Baumholder community gathered their odds and ends of outgrown shoes, out of date fashions, extra coats and toys, and quietly filled donation boxes destined for families in Kosovo. When it was all over, the community had collected over three tons of donated items in just over three weeks.

The Kosovo Clothing Drive is a perfect example of how generous the military family can be. While hundreds of individuals gave their

gifts of clothing, over a dozen volunteers kept up with the daily task of collecting and storing the heavy items. In addition to the civilian help, dozens of soldiers from 1-6th Infantry Battalion, 2-6th Infantry Battalion and 1-35th Armored Battalion donated their time, muscle and facilities to store the growing mountain of clothes, help the volunteers load and unload their cars full of donations, and then pack and ship everything to Ramstein Air Base for transport to Camp Able Sentry, Macedonia.

“It was a team effort,” said Sandy Kamena, one of the volunteers in the drive. She pointed out the variety of community agencies that helped to support and sponsor the drive. “We had people supplying the boxes, people doing posters, people collecting the donations, people putting it in storage for us,” she said. “Task Force Baumholder put it all in huge boxes and loaded it up for sending down range.”

Staff Sgt. Alexander Welch, the Family Readiness Liaison for 2-6th Infantry Battalion, provided the storage facility and support staff to

help volunteers unload the donations into a secure location. Welch and his soldiers at the staff duty desk offered their assistance seven days a week, occasionally taking over for regular volunteers to pick up donations and deliver them to the storage facility.

Agencies on post also helped out with the drive. Kamena said, “We had the commissary and the PX and all the places that we put the boxes who catered to us and let the volunteers know when the boxes were full.” Kamena noted the initiative of the Family Readiness Groups and “The BCSC who sponsored the event and who coordinated the drive. When it started, it was just an idea, but they made it happen,” she said. “The BCSC is there to help other people, that’s what they’re there for. And this is one of the services they provide.”

Kamena also emphasized the generosity of the Baumholder community. “They’re the ones that filled the boxes,” she said. “This community continually comes through to help out when it’s needed. People came out to help other people in

need. Their guys were in Kosovo, and they cleaned out their closets to help out in Kosovo. This community is really amazing.”

For the task of arranging the manpower, supplies, vehicles and air transport, the Army sought out Staff Sgt. Roy Miller, the Transportation NCO from Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1-6th Infantry Battalion. Miller also mentioned how many soldiers came out to help with the drive. “I got 15 people to band up the boxes, put them on pallets and load them on HEMMT’s,” he said. “And I had three HEMMT crews who drove the donations down to Ramstein.”

“It didn’t take much,” said Miller, “once you organized it. It was good to see. People gave so much. It’s just good to see that people come out when they’re really needed.”

Capt. Raphael Works, Task Force Falcon assistant G5 operations officer, said that the amount of clothing collected will enable the soldiers to distribute clothes to every regional municipality in the American sector. “They’ll go everywhere they’re needed,” he said.





Photos by Bernd "Bernie" Mai

Brigitta Bruehl (above), fitness director, monitors children in the pool during the recent aquatic Easter egg hunt. The more than 60 children that showed up for the event were divided into four age groups and each group had its chance to gather eggs from the pool and present them to the Easter bunny to receive a gift. Bruehl and her staff continue to offer the community unique and alternative ways of observing some of the more prominent holidays. In the past, special children's events have been offered for Christmas and Fasching.



Children spring into action during the aquatic Easter egg hunt at the Baumholder pool.

## ACS at a glance

Army Community Service celebrates "Month of the Military Child" from 1–4 p.m. April 28 at the Rheinlander by hosting a family fun fest. There will be several children's activities and information for parents on the various programs available in Baumholder. The event is free and will be open to all military identification card holders. For more information, call ACS at mil 485-8188.

Army Community Foster Care Program is looking for foster care families. Interested families may contact the foster care coordinator at mil 485-8188, or civ (06783) 6-8188. Edenborough.

A week of activities is planned April 23 through 28 for National Volunteer Week. The week ends with a volunteer appreciation dinner and awards ceremony April 27 at the Rheinlander.

Army Community Services and the Baumholder Library are offering story hour for children the sec-

ond and fourth Thursday of the month. Story hours are offered 9:30-10:30 a.m. for children ages 0–18 months and 10:30–11:30 a.m. for ages 19 months to school age.

Army Family Team Building is now offering evening classes for Level III training. Everyone is invited to join the upcoming Monday night classes from 6–7 p.m. that offer two modules each night.

Child-care for daytime classes only is paid for by AFTB. Call mil 485-8542/485-8188 to reserve a space.

### ACS Calendar

**April 17**

Stress and Time Management

**April 18**

Developing A Positive Self Esteem

Principles of Personal Finance

**April 19**

Child Safety and Supervision  
Step Family Relationships

**April 20**

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Recognition

**April 23**

Assertiveness Training  
Employment Orientation  
Resumix Workshop

**April 24**

Anger Management

**April 25**

Conflict Resolution Skills  
Planning and Budgeting  
Step Family Relationships

**April 26**

Couples Communication  
Story Hour (library)  
Family Violence Prevention  
Volunteer Recognition Dinner (Rheinlander)

**April 28**

Family Fun Fest (Rheinlander)

**April 30**

Successful Parenting Skills  
Employment Orientation  
Resumix Workshop  
For information about classes listed or services provided call mil 485-8188, or civ (06783) 6-8188.



## Find a treasure at yard sale

It's not exactly like driving through a German village and picking up old furniture or other junk during one of the local "junk collection days" (Sperrmuell), but you may pick up a bargain or two during the 222nd Base Support Battalion semiannual post wide yard sale. The post wide sale is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 12 in all of Baumholder's housing areas. All sales are for U.S. identification card holders only and all property must be removed by 6 p.m. For more details, call Bill (Sanford) Kalavsky at mil 485-6150/7255.

## Work with youth

Youth Services is looking for people interested in working with youth. Interested persons should be proactive and have a genuine interest in seeing youth succeed. Pay is linked to performance and training. Interested applicants should contact the nonappropriated funds personnel office at mil 485-6566 or Youth Services at mil 485-7276.

## Some services may close

Most 222nd Base Support Battalion facilities will reduce their services or close from 1:30 – 4 p.m. April 20 to allow employees to attend an all-employee assembly. This does not apply to emergency services and continuous care services such as Community Youth Services, Child Development Center and Youth Services. The Inprocessing Training Center and Education Center schedules will remain unaffected.

## Customs closes

The 560th Military Police Customs office in Baumholder will be closed every Thursday beginning May 1. The office will open for business Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:30 – 4:30 p.m. The office closes for lunch from noon - 1 p.m.

## Buccaneer Night

Donating unwanted items from your pre-PCS and spring cleaning is a great way to help Baumholder American High School seniors with their college expenses. The school needs white elephant items and craft items that are in good condition to sell during Buccaneer Night, the annual scholarship fund raiser, May 4.

This annual event will be held at the Rheinlander. Persons who would like to donate items should take them to the high

# Post notes

school gym April 30 through May 3 during school hours. Donations may also be delivered to the Rheinlander from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 4. Clothing items will not be accepted. For more information, call Diane Rose at civ (06783) 980127.

## MWR corner

- The annual 222nd Base Support Battalion unit pre-season softball tournament is scheduled from April 23 through 26 at Iron Soldier Field. The entry fee is now \$75. Sign-up by April 26 to enter the regular league season that begins May 2. Contact 222nd BSB Sports at DSN 485-7176 for more information.

- The 2001 women's intramural volleyball spring league begins May 7 in Baumholder at the Mountaineer Gym. This free event runs through June 7, so come out and show off that spike. Interested persons must register by April 27. Contact the Baumholder Sports Office for more information at mil 485-6671.

- The Mountaineer Fitness Center hosts a racquetball tournament May 19 and 20. The registration fee is \$25 and includes a t-shirt. Awards will be presented to the first and second place winners in each division. Four participants are required in each category for the event to be held. To register, contact the Baumholder Sports Office by May 12 at mil 485-6671/7176, or send a fax to civ (06873) 9177.

- Spend an afternoon at the 25-meter pistol range at the Rod and Gun Club. For only \$5 the lower concourse can be used from noon to 4 p.m. There is an additional cost for targets, gun rental and ammunition. Come to the Rod and Gun and sharpen your shooting skills.

- Bowl and rock during Rock 'n' Bowl night every Wednesday from 8-11 p.m. at the bowling center. For more information, call mil 485-6569 for more weekly events.

- Let outdoor recreation take you away during May with day trips to Luxembourg, Heidelberg, Saarbrücken, and the Zweibrücken outlet center. If you prefer an overnight trip, Baumholder Outdoor Rec. will take you to Poland, Holiday Park or the Black Forest. Call outdoor recreation at mil 485-7182 for details on these trips.

## ACAP services

Soldiers scheduled to ETS can get information about their options at Army Career and Alumni Program. ACAP offers pre-separation briefings, job assistance workshops and job assistance counseling that can help soldiers review their options and assess how the skills developed in the Army can be transferred into civilian life. Soldiers can make appointments for ACAP services at mil 485-6741/6330, or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330.

### Pre-separation briefing

Soldiers must complete a mandatory pre-separation briefing at ACAP no later than 90 days before their separation date. Appointments are available every day at 9 a.m. and last approximately an hour and a half.

### Job assistance

ACAP offers job assistance workshops and counseling to help with the transition from the military to the civilian job market. Workshops are offered by formal instruction every other Wednesday. The next formal workshop is April 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Job assistance can also be accessed through ACAP's new computer system and covers such topics as how to create a resume, finding jobs, networking, and interviewing. Clients can cover these topics at their own pace.

Call to schedule an appointment, or drop by any afternoon to work with ACAP's computer-based job assistance tools. For more information, contact ACAP at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330.

### Soldiers deploying to Kosovo

Soldiers scheduled to transition out of the military within the next 180 days, should start the ACAP process before they deploy. If soldiers complete their mandatory pre-separation briefing (DD2648) before deployment, developing a resume and exploring the job market can be completed via the Internet, phone, fax, and e-mail from down range.

### Spouses can use ACAP

Any family member of a soldier scheduled to separate is eligible to receive services from the Army Career and Alumni Program. Orders are not needed and the sponsor does not have to be present for the spouse to attend ACAP classes or to receive assistance from ACAP counselors. Even if a soldier is deployed, spouses can still receive ACAP assistance in Baumholder.

# Schools, DPW team to observe Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22 and Baumholder's directorate of public works together with Neubrück and Wetzel Elementary Schools have planned a variety of activities to observe the annual effort to protect the Earth's environment.

Wetzel and Neubrück Elementary students will once again participate in the Earth Day Groceries Project, part of the American Forest and Paper Association's Billion

Bag campaign. Students will decorate grocery bags with environmental messages and illustrations. The bags will be distributed at the commissary.

Youth Action Kits will be distributed to each student and teacher at Wetzel and Neubrück Elementary Schools during Earth Week. The kits include recycling flyers and ideas for conservation activities.

Holly Riley, a teacher at Wetzel Elementary School, is coordinating the "Another Use For Contest," a parent-child activity that stresses the importance of recycling. Families are being encouraged to create something useful from an item normally thrown out.

The directorate of public work's environmental office will focus its efforts on recycling and sorting. They will set up displays in Wetzel and Neubrück Elementary Schools featuring the theme "What goes in those colored bags?"

Field trips to the central collection point and recycling center are planned during Earth Day Week to demonstrate how to recycle.

Students will learn how and why the facility operates and how recycling can keep the environment clean.

Students will also go to the water treatment plant during Earth Week to learn why it is crucial to treat sewage water.

Planting supplies, flowers and plants will also be provided by the environmental office during April

to promote environmental activities among children in all grades.

Wetzel Elementary School is planning its popular outdoor activity stations again for Earth Day but volunteers are needed to make this event happen.

Books with environmental themes will be provided to all grades by the environmental office to keep as reference books in each classroom and pencils with an environmental inscription will be distributed in the schools as environmental promotional awareness items.

The environmental office has volunteered to provide guidance to the school age children in recycling, water management, and preservation of the environment by setting displays and speaking in Wetzel, Neubrück, and Smith Elementary Schools.

Recycling flyers and recycling bags will be distributed during the environmental briefings in each school.